

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 Data obtained from a polymerase chain reaction applied to a biological sample is analysed by putting the logarithmic dependence of fluorescence, or any other signal representative of the amount of reaction product, against cycle number. By fitting a straight line to that part of the curve that is substantially linear, both the intrinsic reaction efficiency and the initial loading of the reaction product may be determined.

10 (Figure 2)

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